

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated April 11, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1 and 17 are hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 1-32 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,043,511 to Kim et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0117691 to Choi et al.

Applicants submit independent claim 1 and 17 as amended are allowable over the cited references. For example, neither Kim nor Choi, considered separately or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest “the first copper layer is on the first barrier metal layer” or “the second copper layer is on the second barrier metal layer” as recited in claims 1 and 17.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No.: 10/608,085
Amdt. dated July 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated April 11, 2005

Docket No.: 8733.873.00

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: July 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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